

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. All research work is initiated and directed by a central institution and this tends to curb the excessive individualism of researchers who are, of necessity, limited to working on those aspects of a given problem with which they are most familiar. After all the fragmentary aspects have been supplied to it by individual researchers, the central institution then tackles the problem in its entirety. This greatly speeds up research work and also prevents unnecessary wasting of financial and technical means. 25X1
25X1 this procedure was introduced with an eye to preserving state secrets, since the individual researcher could no longer grasp the entirety of a problem under study on the basis of his fragmentary research, and after completion of his work he was informed by the central institution only of those data which were destined for publication. It would appear that Polish research 25X1
25X1 work has been incorporated into the general scheme of Soviet research.
 2. The centralization of scientific research permits the authorities to introduce a "grading" of problems as regards their urgency by the simple expedient of a specially adapted financial policy: the sums earmarked for this or that problem, limits placed on the purchase of foreign scientific equipment, etc. Generally speaking, funds placed at the disposal of scientific research institutions are large. Moreover, persons engaged in research work are not weighed down by the necessity of having to produce results immediately profitable to those who supply funds for financing their research.
 3. The disadvantage of this centralization is that there is a tendency to increase the numbers of administrative personnel far beyond the requirements; that planning must be very detailed and accurate; budgets are drawn up in detail for the coming year, often imposing rigid plans; the scientists are burdened with the duties of drawing up frequent periodical reports, and they are often told to hurry up with their research.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. Apart from the obvious advantages of applying research work to practical ends, a practical bias in research work prevalent in Poland today tends to satisfy the morale of the scientist engaged in a particular piece of research; he feels that his efforts have a practical purpose and are useful. A scientist expects that the results of his research will be immediately applied in everyday life.
5. At higher levels western scientific sources are made use of (unofficially but nevertheless with the approval of and in accordance with instructions issued by the powers in control). These sources frequently enable a scientist to deepen his own researches. Cases are known of scientists publishing the results obtained from research based on foreign sources (e.g. American) as being wholly their own, or taken from the USSR. Such work is frequently granted a premium.
6. In the 1946-1950 period, admission to scientific posts depended almost exclusively on the capabilities and interests of the candidates. The regime was successful in exploiting the fairly general rush for research jobs. This rush was stimulated, as a matter of fact, by various extraneous factors: research work at that time was one of the few remaining spheres of life which saved its devotees from engaging in political life and also, in many cases, relieved them from compulsory military service. Because of the rather low salaries of junior scientists, at that time, many of the younger men who were not wholeheartedly eager to devote themselves to a scientific career fell away and thus the profession got rid of many unwanted elements. The majority of university chairs and other scientific research posts were, at that time, still occupied by scientists of prewar vintage and the new cadres now acquired were of a fairly stable and valuable kind although their political views varied a great deal.
7. In 1950 a campaign was officially launched aiming at the gradual liquidation of those elements which were regarded as definitely "negative" from the political point of view. Others were given the choice of either giving up their scientific career or adapting themselves to the existing political conditions. They were required to "adapt themselves politically" but the degree of adaptation required varied from person to person. Some were expected to show a "positive non-party attitude" while others were expected to join the Party or even collaborate with the Public Security authorities. Most of the scientists submitted to the "adaptation" in appearance only. The posts vacated by those eliminated in the campaign were allocated to persons "giving rise to no political reservations" or simply to the regime's "own people", i.e., collaborators. The role of these last is on police lines and does not really affect the progress of scientific work. One can say, therefore, that the people in charge of research work are genuine professionals, () refer to pure researchers who have nothing or little to do with teaching). Recently, junior researchers have secured fairly decent conditions of existence.
8. The cadres of scientists have been greatly rejuvenated by the influx of preliminary recruits. New candidates are trained in the universities and specialist institutions (clinical and extra-clinical); the system now in use is for candidates to serve in the capacity of aspirants to a specialist's position, as they do in the USSR. In addition, a part of the student body and doctors undergo additional training in Soviet Russia. Training in other Satellite countries and in the West is increasingly curtailed. Cadres trained in Soviet Russia may use Western European, American and Soviet sources. Persons thus trained are to provide the scientists who will take over those key posts which are now still held by scientists of prewar vintage. It does not look as though the regime intended to eliminate these old scientists; it is more likely that the latter will be removed from their key posts as regards organization, but allowed to continue their purely scientific research work. As a rule, important scientists are not called up for military service.
9. Medical research work is financed by the Treasury, partly from the budget of the Ministry of Health and partly from that of the Ministry of National Defense. Additional funds are handled by the Ministry of Chemical Industry for research on drugs. These ministries are linked by means of the Institute of Pharmacological Materials (Instytut Srodkow Farmaceutycznych) attached to the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Pharmacological Technology attached to the Ministry of Chemical Industry. All important scientific discoveries are granted premiums, the amount of which varies from several to several score thousand zloty.

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10. Great stress is laid on research on the following subjects:

- a. The fighting of serious infectious diseases (especially from the point of epidemiology), i.e., Polio, serious food poisoning, typhoids and paratyphoids. Fair progress has been made in the study of viruses and salmonellas.
- b. Problems of field medicine (injury surgery, dentistry, haematology, psycho-neuroses following injuries, research on the transplantation of tissues).
- c. Research on pharmacology.

11. With a view to production efficiency much time is devoted to the following:

- a. Occupational diseases (industrial poisoning and skin diseases, pre-and-post accident prophylactics--the latter chiefly in heavy industries).
- b. Combatting TB (with stress laid on TB epidemiology), research on bacteria and biochemistry, problems of the "productivization" of the sick, on the acceleration and expansion of rehabilitation, problems of "odzierzeka" TB.
- c. Rheumatology.
- d. Ulcers (duodenal and others).

12. As regards the remaining fields of medicine, third place in the "hierarchy of problematics" has been given to the following:

Diabetes.

Thyroid pathology (esp. hyper-activity).

Psychiatry.

Oncology.

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